UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.164/9
2 June 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS
First session (Organizational session)
New York, 19-23 April 1993

REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS

Prepared by the Secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION		1 - 14	2
	A. Opening of the session	1 - 2	2
	B. Election of officers	3 - 8	2
	C. Attendance	9 - 14	3
I.	VOLUNTARY FUND	15 - 16	3
II.	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	17 - 18	4
III.	ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE	19 - 27	4
	A. Rules of procedure	19 - 20	4
	B. Organization of work for the substantive session	21	4
	C. Documentation	22 - 26	5
	D. Closing of the session	27	5

INTRODUCTION

A. Opening of the session

1. The first session of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, devoted to organizational matters, was held in New York from 19 to 23 April 1993. The Conference was convened in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 47/192 of 22 December 1992, entitled "United Nations conference on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks".

2. The session was opened by the Legal Counsel on behalf of the Secretary-General.

B. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April 1993, the Conference elected Mr. Satya N. Nandan (Fiji) as its Chairman by acclamation.

4. At its 5th meeting, on 23 April, the Conference also elected by acclamation the following three Vice-Chairmen: Mauritania (African States); Italy (Western European and Other States); and Chile (Latin American and Caribbean States).

5. At the same meeting, following its decision to replace the post of Rapporteur with an additional post of Vice-Chairman, the Conference decided to postpone the election of the remaining officer to its substantive session in July.

6. At the 4th meeting, on 22 April, the following States were appointed to the Credentials Committee: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Burundi, China, Kenya, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

7. At the same meeting, the following delegations made statements on behalf of their respective regional groups: Belize (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States); Bhutan (on behalf of the Asian States); Hungary (on behalf of Eastern European States); Iceland (on behalf of the Western European and Other States); Rwanda (on behalf of the African States). In addition, the delegation of Vanuatu made a statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

8. In a statement following his election, the Chairman broadly identified the problems of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks which concerned the interests of coastal States, as well as those of high seas fishing States. He also indicated that, given the nature of these fish stocks, the problems of high seas fishing could only be resolved through cooperation among States concerned, as envisaged in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This statement is contained in document A/CONF.164/7.

C. Attendance

9. Representatives of the following States attended the session: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

10. The following associate member of a regional commission was represented: United States Virgin Islands.

11. The following national liberation movement was represented: Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

12. The following specialized agency was represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, European Economic Community, 1/ Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Organization of African Unity, South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency.

14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 47/192: American Oceans Campaign, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Center for Marine Conservation, Council on Ocean Law, Earth Council, Earthtrust, Environmental Defense Fund, Fisheries Council of Canada, Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers, Greenpeace International, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations, International Ocean Institute, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Association, Inc., Newfoundland Inshore Fisheries Association, Oceans Institute of Canada, Sonar (Save Our Northwest Atlantic Resources), Trickle Up Program, United Nations Association in Canada, World Wide Fund for Nature.

I. VOLUNTARY FUND

15. At the 4th and 5th meetings, on 22 and 23 April, in response to inquiries by some delegations, the Secretariat informed the Conference that an account for the Voluntary Fund had been opened as provided for in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 47/192, and that no contribution had yet been made to the Fund.

16. At the 5th meeting, on 23 April, the Chairman made an appeal to Governments and regional economic integration organizations to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries in participating in the Conference.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

17. The Conference considered its agenda at the 2nd and 4th meetings, on 19 and 22 April. The provisional agenda (A/CONF.164/1) was approved as orally amended by the Chairman at the 4th meeting. The revised agenda is contained in document A/CONF.164/5.

18. At the 4th meeting, on 22 April, following the adoption of the agenda, the delegation of Peru stated that its acceptance of the agenda was based on the understanding that the use of the term "recommendations", as contained in resolution 47/192, would not exclude the possibility that the final result of the Conference, if it so decided, might be the adoption of an international agreement of a legally binding nature consistent with and complementary to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

III. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE

A. Rules of procedure

19. At its 4th meeting on 22 April, after an initial exchange of views and following informal consultations on the modalities of participation of the European Economic Community and non-governmental organizations, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure as contained in document A/CONF.164/2 and amended in document A/CONF.164/2/Rev.1. The rules of procedure, as adopted, are contained in document A/CONF.164/6.

20. At the same meeting, upon the adoption of the rules of procedure, the Chairman made the following statement:

> "With reference to the participation of observers under rules 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 58, the Conference will be guided by the normal practice of the General Assembly.
>
> "...
>
> "With regard to rule 57: In recognition of the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, non-governmental organizations shall have no negotiating role in the work of the Conference."

B. Organization of work for the substantive session

21. At its 5th meeting, on 23 April, the Conference adopted the organization of work for its substantive session (A/CONF.164/3).

C. Documentation

22. At the 4th meeting, on 22 April, the FAO representative informed the Conference that FAO would provide the following documents:

- Reports and documents of the 1992 Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing; 2/
- Declaration of Cancun, adopted by the 1992 International Conference on Responsible Fishing, Cancun, Mexico; 3/
- Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development adopted by the 1984 World Conference for Fisheries Management and Development; 4/
- Draft code of conduct for responsible fishing (under preparation);
- Draft agreement on flagging and reflagging of fishing vessels on the high seas (under preparation).

23. At the same meeting, the delegation of Solomon Islands, on behalf of the Group of South Pacific States, requested that FAO also prepare updated information and analyses on various technical subjects. The FAO representative gave assurances that this would be done.

24. At its 5th meeting, on 23 April, the Conference decided to request the Chairman to prepare a list of issues as guidance for the work of the Conference.

25. At the same meeting, the Chairman indicated that he would welcome submissions from delegations to facilitate the preparation by him of the list of issues. Delegations were encouraged to make such submissions by the end of May through the Secretariat. Unless otherwise indicated, these submissions would be reproduced as documents of the Conference.

26. It was also decided at that meeting that distribution of documents and other materials prepared for information purposes would be the responsibility of the delegations that prepared them.

D. Closing of the session

27. At the 5th meeting on 23 April, the Chairman made a closing statement, which is reproduced in document A/CONF.164/8.

Notes

1/ Rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides:

"The representative of the European Economic Community shall participate in the Conference in matters within its competence without the right to vote. Such representation shall in no case entail an increase of the representation to which the member States of the European Economic Community would otherwise be entitled."

Notes (continued)

2/ Available as FAO Fisheries Report No. 484 and No. 484 Supplement.

3/ A/CONF.151/15, annex; see also FAO Fisheries Report No. 484 Supplement, annex 2.

4/ Report of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, Rome, 27 June-6 July 1984 (FAO, Rome, 1984).